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The Rural District Council  
of Gainsborough



REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year  
1949



# **GAINSBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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*Chairman :*

J. J. ALLEN, J.P., Scotton

*Vice-Chairman :*

A. SMITHSON, Morton

*Clerk of the Council :*

EDGAR A. DONSON,  
R.D.C. Offices, 17, Morley Street, Gainsborough

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## **STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :**

*Medical Officer of Health :*

Dr. J. C. MACARTNEY, M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

E. DONELLY, A.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

# Gainsborough Rural District Council

## ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1949

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
GAINSBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

26th August, 1950.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1949. Compared with the previous year the civilian population has increased by 280 to a total of 11,200. The total number of births (199) shows an increase of 70. The Birth Rate is 16.3 per 1,000 of the population, which is a very favourable comparative figure. The number of deaths (119) is exactly the same as previously, giving a Death Rate of the very low figure of 9.7 per 1,000 of the population. The corresponding rate for all England and Wales is 11.9. Infantile Mortality (deaths of infants under one year of age): Eleven such deaths occurred compared with seven in 1948. There is, therefore, a large increase in the Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births, after a period of three consecutive years, each of which showed a lower figure than that for the rest of the country. The increase was due partly to the number of deaths arising from premature births and congenital causes, which are conditions not readily foreseen, nor preventable. The other causes were Gastro-Enteritis (3) and Pneumonia (3).

The Infectious Disease Incidence was less than half that of 1948. The majority were cases of measles and whooping cough. It is very satisfactory to note that, for the third year in succession, we had no case of Diphtheria. There was only one case of Infantile Paralysis.

It can be said, again, that the general health of the community has remained good.

The very able and energetic manner in which Mr. Donelly, Sanitary Inspector, carried out his multifarious duties is much appreciated. I am, also, grateful to the Clerk of the Council and his staff, as well as to the Water Engineer, for their co-operation. In addition I wish to thank the Councillors for their helpful interest in Public Health matters.

Yours faithfully,

J. C. MACARTNEY,  
M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

## SECTION A.

### 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

|  |         |       |
|--|---------|-------|
| Area of the Rural District .....             | 78,598  | acres |
| Estimated Population (Civilian) .....        | 11,200  |       |
| Rateable Value on the 31st March, 1949 ..... | £38,766 |       |
| Sum represented by 1d. Rate .....            | £154    |       |

The district is entirely rural in character and the sole industry is agriculture. It surrounds the Urban District of Gainsborough on three sides. The Northern and Southern extremities are seventeen miles apart and the greatest width is eleven miles. Parts of the Parishes of Lea and Morton, adjoining Gainsborough town, are semi-residential. There are thirty-seven parishes and the Council consists of thirty-two Councillors.

### 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

|  | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Live Births .....                                      | 106  | 93     | 199   |
| Legitimate .....                                       | 101  | 88     | 189   |
| Illegitimate .....                                     | 5    | 5      | 10    |
| Still Births .....                                     | 3    | 2      | 5     |
| Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....     |      |        | 16.3  |
|  | Male | Female | Total |
| DEATHS. All causes .....                               | 67   | 52     | 119   |
| Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....     |      |        | 9.7   |
|  | Male | Female | Total |
| DEATHS. Infants under 1 year ...                       | 7    | 4      | 11    |
| Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) ..... |      |        | 55.0  |

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

|  | Male | Female | Total |
|--|------|--------|-------|
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...                             | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Other forms of Tuberculosis .....                                  | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Influenza .....  | 5    | —      | 5     |
| Cancer of buccal cavity and<br>oesophagus (m) and uterus (f) ..... | 3    | 2      | 5     |
| Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...                                 | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Cancer of breast .....   | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Cancer of all other sites .....                                    | 8    | 3      | 11    |
| Intra-cranial vascular lesions .....                               | —    | 6      | 6     |
| Heart diseases .....   | 15   | 14     | 29    |
| Other disease of circulatory system ...                            | 5    | 2      | 7     |
| Bronchitis .....   | 4    | 1      | 5     |
| Pneumonia .....  | 3    | 2      | 5     |
| Other respiratory diseases .....                                   | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Diarrhoea, under 2 years .....                                     | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Appendicitis .....   | —    | 1      | 1     |
| Other digestive diseases .....                                     | 2    | 4      | 6     |
| Nephritis .....  | 4    | 2      | 6     |

### CAUSES OF DEATH.

|   | Male | Female | Total |
|---|------|--------|-------|
| Premature Birth .....   | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Congenital malformations, birth<br>injuries, infantile diseases ..... | —    | 2      | 2     |
| Road traffic accidents .....  | 1    | —      | 1     |
| Other violent causes .....  | 5    | —      | 5     |
| All other causes .....  | 5    | 5      | 10    |
|   | 67   | 52     | 119   |

There were no deaths from Puerperal Fever or other Maternal causes.

### CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

| Disease                 | Male | Female | Total |
|-------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Congenital Causes ..... | 1    | 1      | 2     |
| Premature Births .....  | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Pneumonia .....         | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Gastro-Enteritis .....  | 2    | 1      | 3     |
| Totals:                 | 7    | 4      | 11    |

### COMPARATIVE TABLES.

| Births: | Year       | Male | Female | Total | Birth† |
|---------|------------|------|--------|-------|--------|
|         | 1949 ..... | 106  | 93     | 199   | 16.3   |
|         | 1948 ..... | 129  | 113    | 242   | 22.16  |
|         | 1947 ..... | 107  | 105    | 212   | 20.26  |
|         | 1946 ..... | 111  | 95     | 206   | 18.18  |
|         | 1945 ..... | 88   | 111    | 199   | 19.70  |
| Deaths: | Year       | Male | Female | Total | Death† |
|         | 1949 ..... | 67   | 52     | 119   | 9.7    |
|         | 1948 ..... | 63   | 56     | 119   | 10.8   |
|         | 1947 ..... | 72   | 59     | 131   | 12.52  |
|         | 1946 ..... | 53   | 56     | 109   | 10.5   |
|         | 1945 ..... | 69   | 56     | 125   | 12.3   |

### Infantile Mortality:

| Year       | †Rate |
|------------|-------|
| 1949 ..... | 55.0  |
| 1948 ..... | 28.9  |
| 1947 ..... | 33.0  |
| 1946 ..... | 29.1  |
| 1945 ..... | 42.0  |

|                                   | †Birth<br>Rate | †Death<br>Rate | †Infant<br>Mortality |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| England and Wales .....           | 16.7           | 11.7           | 32                   |
| 126 Great Towns .....             | 18.7           | 12.5           | 37                   |
| 148 Smaller Towns .....           | 18.0           | 11.6           | 30                   |
| London .....                      | 18.5           | 12.2           | 29                   |
| Gainsborough Rural District ..... | 16.3           | 9.7            | 55.0                 |

† Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

#### A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

##### Health Information.

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough. The County Medical Officer is Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E., County Offices, Lincoln.

##### Health Centres.

Until these centres are available, doctors, dentists and pharmacists will continue to practise at their own premises.

##### Maternity Service.

The following are amongst the provisions made:—

Midwives.

Ante- and Post-Natal Clinics.

Maternity Home and Hospital.

Maternity Outfits.

Care and Accommodation of Unmarried Mothers.

Dental Treatment.

##### Child Care.

Infant Welfare Centres. Doctors and nurses attend here to advise parents on all matters relating to the health and welfare of all children up to 5 years of age.

Dental Inspection.

Dental Treatment.

Welfare Foods.

Care of Premature Infants.

Day Nurseries.

School Clinics.

School Medical Inspection. Children attending maintained schools are examined as a routine three times during their school lives; on entry, in the last year of attendance at the Primary School and in their last year at School. Defects or conditions requiring attention are notified to the parents who are invited to be present at the examination.

Consultations and Specialist Treatment.

Speech Defects. Training and Treatment arranged for.

### **Home Nursing.**

#### **Health Visitors.**

To advise on the care of children, nursing mothers, the prevention of the spread of infection and on health matters generally.

#### **Sick Room Requisites, Appliances and Other Equipment.**

#### **Home Helps.**

For maternity cases during the lying-in period and where help is required in the case of the sick or aged. A charge is made for this service based on the family income.

#### **Vaccination and Immunisation.**

Parents may have their children vaccinated against smallpox and immunised against diphtheria free of charge.

#### **Mental Health.**

**Mental Illness.** Treatment will be arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after-care will be carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

**Mental Defectives.** Arrangements made for institutional care.

The County Council are responsible for the care and supervision of mental defectives in their own homes.

#### **Ambulance Service.**

A very highly efficient service now operates in the area for all varieties of requirements.

### **B. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.**

#### **General Medical Care.**

#### **The Family Doctor.**

**Special Maternity Services apart from the Local Health Authority Service** (General Practitioner Obstetrician).

#### **Medicines, Drugs and Appliances.**

#### **Dentistry.**

#### **Supplementary Eye Service.**

### **C. SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.**

#### **Hospital and Specialist Services.**

All forms of treatment in general or special hospitals are available, both in-patient and out-patient treatment. This includes sanatorium treatment, maternity care, care of mental health and surgical operations. Consultants and specialists are available as far as resources permit.

## SECTION C.

### WATER SUPPLY.

- (i) The water supplied by the Council is derived from the following sources and during the year was satisfactory both in quality and quantity:—
- (1) Council's own boreholes at Glenthorn and Caenby, west of the Lincolnshire Wolds.
  - (2) Bulk supply from Lincoln Corporation, the supply being derived from boreholes at Elkesley in Nottinghamshire.
  - (3) Bulk supply from Glandford Brigg Rural District Council for the hamlet of Susworth only (i.e., 35 properties in the Scotter Parish).
- (ii) Samples for Bacteriological and Chemical examinations were taken periodically and the results were satisfactory.
- (iii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination as no adverse reports were received.

(v)

| Parish.         | Total No.                       | HOUSES.<br>No. with piped supplies. |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Blyborough      | 43                              | 37                                  |
| Blyton          | 238                             | 210                                 |
| Brampton        | 25                              | 23                                  |
| Corringham      | 123                             | 87                                  |
| East Ferry      | 44                              | 36                                  |
| East Stockwith  | 97                              | 94                                  |
| Fenton          | 75                              | 74                                  |
| Fillingham      | 65                              | 38                                  |
| Gate Burton     | 22                              | 20                                  |
| Glentworth      | 78                              | 51                                  |
| Grayingham      | 32                              | 22                                  |
| Hardwick        | Supplied by Lincoln Corporation |                                     |
| Harpswell       | 21                              | 16                                  |
| Heapham         | 35                              | 28                                  |
| Hemswell        | 93                              | 82                                  |
| Kettlethorpe    | 47                              | 42                                  |
| Kexby           | 106                             | 94                                  |
| Knaith          | 48                              | 47                                  |
| Laughton        | 62                              | 54                                  |
| Lea             | 177                             | 176                                 |
| Marton          | 117                             | 95                                  |
| Morton          | Supplied by Gainsborough U.D.C. |                                     |
| Newton-on-Trent | 71                              | 60                                  |
| Northorpe       | 53                              | 30                                  |
| Pilham          | 16                              | 12                                  |
| Scotter         | 312                             | 297                                 |
| Scotton         | 79                              | 61                                  |
| Springthorpe    | 41                              | 39                                  |
| Stow            | 104                             | 83                                  |

(v)

| Parish.           | Total No.   | HOUSES.<br>No. with piped supplies. |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sturton-by-Stow   | 171         | 142                                 |
| Thonock           | 21          | —                                   |
| Torksey           | 50          | 24                                  |
| Upton             | 57          | 38                                  |
| Walkerith         | 22          | 19                                  |
| Wildsworth        | 29          | 23                                  |
| Willingham        | 126         | 74                                  |
| Willoughton       | 140         | 116                                 |
| <b>Totals ...</b> | <b>2840</b> | <b>2344</b>                         |

Extensions to water mains are proposed to supply a further 150 houses (approximately).

#### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are no sewage disposal works in the rural district, apart from those serving three R.A.F. Stations, and no parishes have sewerage systems.

The Council have considered carefully the question of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the whole rural district and intend to carry out schemes dealing with six parishes (viz: Blyton, Lea, Knaith Park, Morton, Scotter, Scotton) as soon as the Ministry gives sanction.

#### REFUSE COLLECTION, SCAVENGING.

A direct labour house refuse removal service is in operation in the twelve largest parishes in the district, namely: Blyton, Corringham, Hemswell, Knaith, Lea, Marton, Scotter, Scotton, Stow, Sturton-by-Stow, Willingham and Willoughton. There has also been a refuse collection and scavenging service in Morton for several years. Two-thirds of the houses in the district are served by these two schemes. The Council have planned the extension of the service to the remainder of the rural district with effect from the 1st April, 1950.

### SECTION D.

#### HOUSING.

1. Inspections of dwellinghouses during the year numbered 168.
2. 127 defective houses were rendered habitable in all respects.
3. New Houses. 57 new houses were completed during the year, 38 by the Council and 19 by private enterprise. 14 more additional units of family accommodation were provided by private enterprise as a result of the conversion and alteration of existing properties. 52 further new houses were under construction in the district at the end of the year.

|     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| 4.  | HOUSING ACT, 1936. — PART IV — OVERCROWDING.                                    |     |
| (a) | (I) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... ... ... ...  | 30  |
|     | (II) Number of families therein ... ... .                                       | 48  |
|     | (III) Number of persons dwelling therein ...                                    | 225 |
| (b) | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... ... ...    | 22  |
| (c) | (I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... ... ... .. | 26  |
|     | (II) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ... ... ... ..               | 123 |
| (d) | Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved ... ... ..   | Nil |

#### POST-WAR HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

TO 31st DECEMBER, 1949.

#### TOTALS.

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Council Houses .....  | 126 |
| Private Enterprise Houses .....                               | 61  |
| Additional family units resulting from conversions, etc. .... | 37  |

This housing record compares very favourably with the achievements of other Rural Districts in the County.

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspections by the Sanitary Inspector were made of shops, stalls, vehicles and food preparing places. Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops were also kept under supervision. With the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944, duties in relation to the supervision of milk production were transferred from the Council to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries on 1st October. Responsibilities for dairies, milkshops and retailing of milk remained unaltered. Slaughtering is carried out at the Regional Abattoir of the Ministry of Food, where routine inspection of all carcases takes place. With the increasing public alarm due to the growing number of cases of food poisoning throughout the country the Ministry have urged that stricter supervision should be exercised over all premises where food is prepared. Whilst every effort is made in this direction, I am pleased to report that no outbreaks of food poisoning in the area were brought to our notice.

## SECTION F.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of Infectious Diseases was only 83 compared with 174 in 1948. This does not include Tuberculosis of which there were 9 in each of these years. The majority (51) were Measles. Only one case of Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) occurred.

|       | Measles. | Whooping Cough. | Scarlet Fever. |
|-------|----------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1949. | 51       | 16              | 6              |
| 1948. | 71       | 73              | 13             |

It is very satisfactory to note that we have now completed three consecutive years of freedom from Diphtheria which is a state of affairs to be aimed at.

#### IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

During the 12 months the following are the figures of immunisations:—

| Children under |          | Boosters             |
|----------------|----------|----------------------|
| 5 years        | Age 5-14 | (Re-inforcing doses) |
| 138            | 17       | 60                   |

#### VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

Total: 44

Re-vaccination: 5

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH.**

|                         | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| Measles .....           | —    | —    | 1    | 1    | 11  | —    | 11   | 27   | —     | —    | —    | —    | 51    |
| Whooping Cough .....    | 2    | —    | 1    | —    | 2   | —    | —    | 7    | 1     | —    | 3    | —    | 16    |
| Scarlet Fever .....     | 1    | —    | 1    | —    | —   | —    | —    | —    | —     | 1    | 1    | 2    | 6     |
| Pneumonia .....         | 2    | —    | 1    | 1    | 1   | —    | —    | —    | —     | 1    | —    | —    | 6     |
| Erysipelas .....        | —    | —    | —    | —    | 1   | —    | —    | 1    | —     | —    | —    | —    | 2     |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ..... | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | —    | —    | 1    | —     | —    | —    | —    | 1     |
| Polio-Myelitis .....    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | —    | —    | —    | —     | 1    | —    | —    | 1     |
| Total .....             | 5    | —    | 4    | 2    | 15  | —    | 11   | 36   | 1     | 3    | 4    | 2    | 83    |

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

| Parish                | Measles   | Whooping Cough | Scarlet Fever | Puerperal Pyrexia | Erysipelas | Pneumonia | Pulmonary Tuberculosis | Polio-Myelitis | Pulmonary Tuberculosis |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Blyton .....          | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Brampton .....        | 7         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| East Stockwith .....  | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Fillingham .....      | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Grayingham .....      | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Harpstead .....       | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Hemswell .....        | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Knaith .....          | 1         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Laughton .....        | 2         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Lea .....             | 5         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Morton .....          | 1         | 2              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Northorpe .....       | 6         | 1              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Scoter .....          | 19        | 1              | 1             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Scoton .....          | 1         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Springthorpe .....    | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Sturton-by-Stow ..... | 1         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Torksey .....         | 2         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Wildsworth .....      | 6         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Willingham .....      | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| Willoughton .....     | —         | —              | —             | —                 | —          | —         | —                      | —              | —                      |
| <b>Totals .....</b>   | <b>51</b> | <b>16</b>      | <b>1</b>      | <b>2</b>          | <b>6</b>   | <b>1</b>  | <b>9</b>               | <b>1</b>       | <b>1</b>               |

### TUBERCULOSIS.

| Ages          | Respiratory |    | Non-Respiratory |       |
|---------------|-------------|----|-----------------|-------|
|               | M.          | F. | M.              | F.    |
| 0—5 .....     | —           | —  | —               | —     |
| 5—10 .....    | —           | —  | —               | —     |
| 10—15 .....   | —           | —  | —               | —     |
| 15—25 .....   | 1           | 2  | —               | —     |
| 25—45 .....   | 2           | —  | —               | —     |
| 45—65 .....   | 1           | 1  | —               | —     |
| Over 65 ..... | —           | 2  | —               | —     |
| <hr/>         |             |    |                 |       |
| Totals .....  | 4           | 5  | —               | — = 9 |
| <hr/>         |             |    |                 |       |

### DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

|             | Respiratory |    | Non-Respiratory |    |
|-------------|-------------|----|-----------------|----|
|             | M.          | F. | M.              | F. |
|             | —           | 2  | 1               | 1  |
| <hr/>       |             |    |                 |    |
| Total ..... |             | 4  |                 |    |

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

### Part I of the Act.

#### 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

| Premises   | No. on Register | Written Inspections | Occupiers Notices | Prosecuted |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities |                 |                     |                   |            |
| Authorities .....  | 39              | 20                  | Nil               | Nil        |
| Others .....   | Nil             | Nil                 | Nil               | Nil        |
| <b>Total .....</b>   | <b>39</b>       | <b>20</b>           | <b>Nil</b>        | <b>Nil</b> |
|  | —               | —                   | —                 | —          |

#### 2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

| Particulars             | Found    | Remedied | Inspector | No. of cases in which defects were found | in which Referred prosecutions by H.M. were instituted |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|-----------|--|--|
| Want of Cleanliness ... | 1        | 1        | 1         |  | Nil  |
| Sanitary Conveniences   |          |          |           |  |  |
| Insufficient .....      | 3        | 3        | 2         |  | Nil  |
| <b>Total .....</b>      | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>3</b>  | <b></b>                                  | <b>Nil</b>   |
|                         | —        | —        | —         | —  | —  |

### Part VIII of the Act.

#### OUTWORK.

Sections 110 and 111 ..... Nil







